

REMARKS:

The Office Action dated September 20, 2007, has been carefully considered. In response thereto, the following remarks have been prepared, which are intended to be fully responsive to the Office Action.

Summary of the Office Action and Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3, and 6-8 are pending in the application. None of the pending claims have been cancelled in this paper, and no new claims have been added. Thus, upon entry of this paper in the record, claims 1, 3, and 6-8 will be pending. All of the claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,195,835 to *Song et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,557,399 to *Wolfe* and Japanese patent reference JP9-164100.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

All of the claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Song et al.* in view of *Wolfe* and JP9-164100. The Examiner contends that the *Song et al.* patent discloses every feature of the claimed invention except for “a brush capable of inhaling air that contains external dusts” and “wherein the handle is double-bent.” However, the Examiner contends that the *Wolfe* patent discloses “a brush capable of inhaling air containing external dust” and JP9-164100 discloses a double-bent handle, and it would have been obvious, the Examiner asserts, to combine the teachings of those references to arrive at the inventions of claims 1 and 8 for the reasons stated in the Office Action. For the following reasons, the rejection of the claims under § 103(a) is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to clarify the structure of the handle tube and cyclone dust collector. For example, in claim 1, the invention is recited as having a handle tube with a cyclone dust collector having an inlet port and an outlet port and being mounted on the handle tube, and a handle tube body having a first flow conduit having an air inlet in fluid communication with the brush on the brush end of the handle tube and a suction port connected

to the inlet port of the cyclone dust collector; and a second flow conduit formed into a double-bent construction and forming a handle space under the handle tube to be gripped by a user, the second flow conduit having an air outlet in fluid communication with a flexible hose at a rear end of the handle tube, and a discharge port connected to the outlet port of the cyclone dust collector, and wherein the cyclone is mounted under a portion of the double-bent construction.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose those claimed features of the present invention. For example, the cyclone dust collector of the present invention is disposed under the double-bent construction portion of the second flow conduit. None of the cited references teach that advantageous location for a cyclone separator, nor the combination of recited features of the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the claims are not obvious in view of the cited references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under § 103(a) are respectfully requested.